



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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October 2003 Animal Health Newsletter

State Veterinarian's message

Some of the big news this past quarter included the release of all quarantines for Exotic Newcastle Disease. Congratulations, California. At the height of the END outbreak, state and federal quarantines encompassed 46,000 square miles. The outbreak cost more than \$160 million to fight and resulted in depopulation of over 3 million birds. More information is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov.

In an effort to prevent introduction of END into our state, we added a new section to the animal importation rules. WAC 16-54-155 prohibits moving birds into this state from locations where END is confirmed. It also requires anyone organizing a bird show or event to immediately notify our office. Bird event participants must certify in writing that their birds and equipment have not been in areas where END is known to have occurred. After a public hearing and consideration of comments received, this rule was filed on September 9 and will become permanent November 10. Thanks to those avian veterinarians, poultry and game bird producers and members of the public who showed their support through e-mails, written comments and testimony at the hearing.

USDA announced in August that a permit application process is available for importation of certain ruminant products from Canada. For details, refer to the Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/08/0281.htm>. On May 20, importation of Canadian live ruminants and most ruminant products were halted after a cow in Alberta was found to have Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease").

Regarding West Nile Virus, so far this year 33 counties have submitted over 470 birds for WNV testing at WADDL. All tests have been negative so far. Birds tested included 372 crows, 31 magpies, 14 Stellar's jays, 9 ravens, a red tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, swainsons thrush, 2 barn owls, 2 woodpeckers, 2 flickers and other species.

Editor's note: Since this newsletter was published, I have learned that Dr. Robert W. Mead passed away on November 15. The cause of death was listed as heart failure. He received a military burial at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, on November 21, 2003. After the funeral, family, friends and colleagues gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Puyallup, Washington, for a memorial service. Dr. Mead will be missed as a colleague and a friend.

Kathleen M. Connell, DVM

WNV in 2003—USDA's 2003 Equine West Nile Virus cases map is up and running and will be updated weekly. You can access the map at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/equine/wnv/map2003.html>. (E-mail July 22, 2003)

Scrapie Web sites—

Four good Web sites for information on scrapie:

- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/scrapie/>
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faq_notice/fs_ahscrapie.html
- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/scrapie/eradicate.html>
- <http://animalagriculture.org/scrapie/gotoshow.htm>

News from other states—

➤ **Alaska—**

- Dr. Mike Philo is the new USDA Veterinary Medical Officer in Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Philo received his undergraduate degree from Wilkes-Barre College, Pennsylvania, his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Dr. Philo comes to Alaska from Bozeman, Montana, where he served as Regional Epidemiologist. (E-mail August 21, 2003)
- Alaska's importation requirements are available at www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/animal/home.htm. For complete information on Alaska's regulations, call the Alaska State Veterinarian's Office, 907-745-3236. (Fax September 8, 2003)

➤ **California—**After California recently lost its TB-free status, it instituted TB test requirements for imported cattle. All dairy breeding cattle over 6 months of age must be TB tested within 60 days prior to entry into California. For complete details, call 916-651-6278. (July 23, 2003, memo from the California State Veterinarian)

➤ **Idaho—**The state confirmed its first case of equine West Nile Virus for 2003. The 17-year-old Quarter horse mare was on the rodeo circuit in Wyoming and was reported to have been sick upon arrival in Idaho. The horse responded to treatment and appears to be recovering. The mare was not vaccinated against WNV. (E-mail September 12, 2003)

➤ **Montana—**For animal importation permits, call 406-444-2976. The main number for the Animal Health Division is 406-444-2043. (E-mail July 24, 2003)

➤ **New Mexico—**USDA downgraded the state from TB-free to modified accredited advanced after 2 TB-affected herds were detected in Roosevelt County. Under the regulations, if two or more affected herds are detected in an accredited-free state within a 48-month period, the state will be reclassified to modified accredited advanced. (E-mail July 24, 2003)

➤ **Oregon—**

- In July, the state experienced an outbreak of Myxomatosis, a serious disease in rabbits. For more information, contact the Oregon State Veterinarian, Dr. Brad LeaMaster, 503-986-4680.

Myxomatosis was found in the mid-part of Oregon's Willamette Valley. Confirmed cases as of July 31, 2003, included two cases in Linn County, two cases in Benton County, one case in Polk County and one case in Yamhill County. (Editor's note: Benton County is the county in Oregon, not the Washington State county).

Myxomatosis is caused by a poxvirus. It does not pose a human health hazard. There have not been any reported cases in Washington State. The last reported case in Oregon was at the end of July.

Myxomatosis is extremely infectious, resulting in high death rates of domesticated rabbits. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and other insect vectors, by direct contact and can be mechanically spread by humans when handling rabbits. There is no diagnostic test for the live animal, no vaccine available, no cure and no effective treatment. (News release July 30, 2003)

- In mid-September, one boarding stable near Goble, Columbia County, reported an outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus-1. Sixteen of 19 horses showed various signs of illness. The majority of the horses responded to treatment and are recovering. EHV-1 is not a reportable disease in Oregon or Washington State. (News release September 15, 2003)

➤ **Pennsylvania—**As of August 26, 2003, WNV has been identified in almost every county in Pennsylvania. Only 4 counties have not reported confirmed positive samples in mosquitoes, birds, horses, humans, sentinel chickens or other animals. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services, 717-783-6677 or c-animalem@state.pa.us. (E-mail August 27, 2003)

➤ **Texas—**

- In early August, tests confirmed that a white-tailed deer near Del Rio died from anthrax. This is the 1st confirmed case of the disease in Texas in 2003. For more information, contact Carla Everett, Information Officer, at 1-800-550-8242, ext. 710, or by e-mail at ceverett@tahc.state.tx.us. (News release August 8, 2003)
- To help regain its TB-free status, Texas will initiate a TB testing program on November 1. Certified private veterinarians will conduct testing of dairy and purebred cattle herds. USDA is funding the surveillance testing. Other components of Texas' TB plan include enhanced slaughter surveillance and controlling Mexican feeder cattle and rodeo stock. All states are classified bovine TB-free, except Texas, California, New Mexico and Michigan. (News release September 11, 2003)

- **Washington**—Recent testing reveals that Washington State's deer and elk remain free of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Testing was completed on nearly 1,000 animals, primarily from animals harvested during 2002 fall hunts. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to continue monitoring by collecting another 1,000 samples from deer and elk this year.

The state began targeted CWD surveillance in 1995. More intensive testing of hunter-killed animals began 2 years ago when the disease began appearing outside its previously known range. To date, CWD has been detected in 12 states.

A total of 1,557 tissue samples from Washington State deer and elk have been tested for CWD in the past 2 years, with 898 samples taken in 2002 and 659 collected in 2001. For 2003, the focus will be on sampling areas that have been previously under-represented in terms of geography and proportion of the deer harvest. Because a live animal test is not available, most samples are collected at hunter check stations or from meat lockers that process game. Some additional samples are taken from road-killed animals.

The 2002 samples included 113 from elk, 290 from blacktail deer, 296 from mule deer, 188 from whitetail deer and 11 from deer of unrecorded species. An additional 117 samples collected in 2002 and 127 samples from 2001 could not be accurately tested, generally because the tissue was too decomposed at the time of collection.

More information is available at www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/cwd/index.htm or by contacting Dr. Kristin Mansfield, 509-892-9138. (News release July 25, 2003)

Brand Inspection—When Certified Veterinarians conduct brand inspection, valid proof of ownership must be provided before any inspection certificate can be issued. Ownership can be established with one of the following documents:

- An official livestock inspection certificate issued by Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).
- A duplicate certificate or certified copy of an original inspection document issued by WSDA.
- For cattle only, a self-inspection certificate signed by both the seller and the buyer. Additional proof of ownership must be provided to the buyer for all livestock bearing brands not recorded to the seller.
- An official inspection certificate issued by another state or province that has brand inspection.
- For purebred horses, registration papers.
- For purebred cattle, registration papers, as long as the brand is not recorded in Washington State.
- For horses only, a bill of sale. For branded horses, additional documents must be provided if the person listed as the seller is not the recorded brand holder. Refer to the current brand book to determine the recorded owner of the brand.
- Official health papers issued by a state that does not have brand inspection. The animal's description must be verifiable and match the health document.
- A statement declaring that the animal was raised and not purchased.

Additionally:

- The Certified Veterinarian may only accept original, official, duplicate certificates or certified copies. Carbon, faxed or photocopies are not acceptable.
- The person requesting the brand inspection must appear as the owner of the animal on the document.
- The person's proof of ownership information must be listed in the "Remarks" section of the inspection certificate.
- Before mailing the completed brand inspection certificate to Olympia, the document used to prove the animal's ownership must be attached to the white copy of the certificate.

All completed inspection paperwork must be submitted by Certified Veterinarians to the Olympia office every 2 weeks so that clients can receive their official documents and lifetime horse ID cards.

For more information, contact WSDA's Livestock Identification Program at 360-902-1855. (E-mail September 15, 2003)